

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 6. (Canceled).

4 7. (Currently Amended) An electrical contact comprising:

a metallic substrate; and

a contact layer in the form of a gradient layer applied on the metallic substrate, the gradient layer being composed of at least two elements, the at least two elements including a first element and a second element, wherein one of: (a) the first element is silver and forms an alloy with the second element, the second element including one of indium and tin, (b) the first element is tin and the second element is phosphorus, and (c) the first element is indium and the second element is tin;

wherein a proportion of the first element and the second element in the gradient layer changes substantially linearly in a direction normal to a plane of the substrate.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The electrical contact according to claim 7, wherein the gradient layer has a thickness of between about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

10. (Previously Presented) The electrical contact according to claim 7, wherein the gradient layer has a noble-metal cover layer at least regionally.

11. (Previously Presented) The electrical contact according to claim 10, wherein the noble-metal cover layer has a thickness of between about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (Previously Presented) The electrical contact according to claim 10, wherein the noble-metal cover layer is composed of at least one of Au, Ru, Pt and Pd.

13. (Previously Presented) The electrical contact according to claim 7, wherein the gradient layer is applied on the substrate according to one of a galvanic method and a PVD method.